

Boothwyn, PA — On Tuesday, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7) hosted a First Responders Grants and Appropriations Seminar at Brookhaven Borough Hall in Brookhaven, PA as part of an on-going effort to inform his constituents about opportunities to seek funding at the state and federal level for projects. — “This forum presented an opportunity for first responders, many of whom serve on a volunteer basis, to engage in a dialogue with their federal representative and learn how to obtain the resources they need to protect our communities” said Congressman Sestak. “First responders keep our neighborhoods safe and we owe them not only our gratitude, but also our full support, whether through access to the resources they need or through helping them to access information explaining the grant and appropriations process.”

Congressman Sestak was joined by Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Edward Mann, FEMA grant specialist Dustin Brosius, PEMA Eastern Office Representative Laura-Turnbull Peters, Director of Emergency Medical Services for the Pennsylvania Department of Health Joseph Schmider, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Michael Kane, and Dr. Debra Cohen from the United States Department of Justice COPS program.

The grant writing committee from Manoa Fire Company, comprised of Chief Michael Norman, Captain Andrew Coll, Firefighter Tim Regan, and Board of Directors member Joseph Coll, also attended the event to speak about their recent receipt of a \$52,060 grant from FEMA. Sixty first responders from all across the 7th Congressional district packed the borough hall to listen to speakers and ask questions.

After searching for an easy-to-use manual to help his constituents, Congressman Sestak has compiled the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Federal and State Grants & Resource Directory, a one-stop shop for learning about opportunities to secure project funding. To make it more accessible to constituents, Congressman Sestak made this document downloadable from his website to serve as an aid in searching for funding. It can be found at <http://www.sestak.house.gov/services2.shtml>.

Also, available on his website is the FY 2008 appropriation application form. The form can be downloaded at <http://www.sestak.house.gov/pdf/fed.pdf> and the deadline to apply is February 29th, 2008. On Tuesday evening, Congressman Sestak distributed copies of the manual and other grant resource information to the first responders in attendance.

“These forums allow for a much-needed two-way conversation between local government leaders and their federal representative,” said Congressman Sestak. “I look forward to continuing to work with all local leaders to access funding for important projects that secure the welfare of our constituents, and bringing the needs and concerns of our local governments to the attention of those in Washington.”

During the Congressman’s first term, numerous local municipalities received grants to help fund projects that benefit their communities. For instance, the Lafayette Ambulance and Rescue Squad received a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant; Upper Darby Township secured

Department of Justice funding for their community Weed & Seed program; and Delaware County received funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to aid in crime prevention and control.